

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: Don Snyder

Don Snyder was born in Honolulu on July 1, 1943. His mother, Bridget Castro, taught swimming at the Waikiki War Memorial Natatorium and worked at a pineapple cannery. His father, Willard Snyder, moved to the Mainland after their divorce.

Snyder's three older siblings lived on the Mainland with his father. He and two younger brothers were raised by their mother at Pālama's Mayor Wright Homes.

He swam, played basketball, took drawing lessons, and learned to play the clarinet at Pālama Settlement.

Snyder attended Likelike and Pālolo schools, Central Intermediate School, and McKinley High School (class of 1961). He joined the U.S. Navy and subsequently attended the University of San Francisco (class of 1968) on a four-year scholarship. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in business and a teaching certificate.

He returned to the islands after playing professional basketball in Europe.

In 1970 he started teaching and coaching at Lahainaluna School on Maui.

He has been a teacher/coach at Maui High School since 1981. In 1988, he became athletic director. He lives on Maui with his wife Edwina Wilson-Snyder and four children.

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ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Don Snyder (DS)

Kahului, Maui

January 27, 1998

BY: Warren Nishimoto (WN)

WN: This is an interview with Don Snyder for the Pālama Settlement oral history project on January 27, 1998 and we're at his office at Maui High School in Kahului, Maui. The interviewer is Warren Nishimoto.

Okay, Don, why don't we start? Tell me first of all when and where you were born.

DS: Okay, I was born in Honolulu, 1943, July 1.

WN: What part of Honolulu?

DS: Kalihi. By Mayor Wright [Homes]. That time but didn't have Mayor Wright's at the time when I was born.

WN: Where in Kalihi?

DS: By Pālama Settlement.

WN: Do you remember the street?

DS: 'Īao [Lane].

WN: Oh, okay. And what were your parents doing over there?

DS: My mom was divorced, and so my father lived on the Mainland. And I was living with my mom. And my mom was teaching swimming. She was an instructor.

WN: Oh yeah? Where did she teach?

DS: She taught up in the Waikīkī [War Memorial] Natatorium. That's basically what she was doing. And she also worked in the [pineapple] cannery for a while. Because she didn't have all the education, she couldn't get the better jobs. She didn't graduate from high school 'cause she had to work to support the others. You know, those were the times when they had to support other people—the other members of the family—so not everybody could have that ability to go to colleges or go to high school.

WN: How many brothers and sisters did you have?

DS: I have six, altogether, yeah. I'm like in the middle.

WN: So your mother raised six children by herself?

DS: Not really. Initially, yes, but then, my older ones—my two sisters and my brother, the older brothers—they went to live with the father. So they stayed on the Mainland. And they would come down once in a while to see us. But the bottom three—the three boys—she's the one that raised us.

WN: What ethnicity was your mother?

DS: Chinese, Hawaiian. Like half-half.

WN: And your father?

DS: My father was Caucasian. So, (laughs) I'm half-Caucasian and quarter of each.

WN: Okay, so you grew up 'Īao [Lane].

DS: Yes, uh huh.

WN: And so, did you go to school around there?

DS: Yes, I did. I went to---gee, what's that elementary school that's right there?

WN: Ka'iulani?

DS: No, next one. Begins with an L.

WN: Still there?

DS: Yeah, still there. Right next to Pāloma Settlement.

WN: Well, there's Likelike.

DS: Likelike [Elementary School].

WN: Likelike?

DS: Yeah.

WN: Okay. So you went over there?

DS: Yeah, mm hmm. Went to that school, Likelike. But I also went to Pālolo [Elementary School], too. 'Cause we moved. Mom had another marriage, second marriage, and then we moved up to Pālolo. And then that didn't work out. So we moved back to Kālihi. And that's when we moved to Mayor Wright's.

WN: Oh, I see. What was it like, growing up in Mayor Wright's?

DS: You know, it was a challenge. A real challenge. Because we had a variety of kinds of people that, you know, more the lower income. Because we were on welfare and everything at that time. And growing up there I met a lot of different people. We had people who would---gangsters in that area, some prostitution going on. We had a lot of things like that going on, you know, shooting. But what really helped us was athletics. And I had a lot of my friends there. And they were in athletics. So Pālama Settlement was our saving grace. So we had a place of refuge. We would go there to get away from the other elements.

And I was able to participate in swimming. And met some nice people like Lorin Gill. And met "Earie" [Kalau], and I forgot his last name, he was the swimming person there. That's when I met [Harry] Mamizuka, and I met a lot of the swimmers. And then I met some basketball players actually from Farrington [High School] because they had the gym there and Farrington was there. In fact I actually started out playing basketball over there just fooling around before swimming. And in the outdoor courts, so I couldn't afford a pair of shoes and we were just all barefooted, playing barefoot. When they first allowed us to go into the gym to play we needed pair of shoes to go in. So somebody loaned me pair of shoes---gave me a pair of shoes, really. I was able to play with that. And then, after a while it wore out and I used to tape it. (WN laughs.) And then the bottom had a hole and they'd put a cardboard and then tape it so that the thing will last longer. Just couldn't afford it at the time. That wasn't a priority. We got a pair of shoes at least. Plus a lot of times I went to school without shoes. I was lucky to get slippers to go to school.

The food was more important. We were able to eat, so that was more important. Although we had hand-me-down clothes, although we had clothes with little holes, like that, they were clean. And it wasn't dirty. We were fortunate we had people even give us some clothes.

WN: You were going Likelike School at that time?

DS: Yes. I was going to Likelike School. I used to work in the cafeteria. Every day I would go early in the morning and help prepare. And then at lunch I would help serve the food and so I would get a free lunch that day. So that was taken care of at least. And I would have breakfast there too, because I worked in the morning. So I had breakfast and then lunch. So that helped, as far as the food is concerned.

WN: So okay, so you went to Pālama Settlement, basically for swimming. Was that your first goal?

DS: Well, I went over there for all the recreational activities. And swimming was one of them. And then I got involved with the swimming teams. And if you want to swim they practice this time, that's the time you gotta go. Otherwise everybody else is out, free time is no longer there. I also went there for other activities, like drawing classes. They said I had potential in my drawings, so they asked me if I wanted to go into the classes. And I did. I went into it. And it was good. But then it ended. Then I also started playing the clarinet. I went to a class over there, too. I also learned how to dance there. Upstairs with the other teenagers. In fact, the gals taught me how to dance. (Laughs) Little bit.

WN: What kind dancing?

DS: Oh, it was the slow dance at that time.

WN: Oh, ballroom dancing?

DS: No, not ballroom. Just this foxtrot at that time, yeah? And that's what I learned at first before I got to learn other dances. The females were the ones who taught me how to dance. Not the adults, the kids that all go up there. Was upstairs, I remember. And we used to go there, and have dances and stuff. So that's when we were socializing and stuff like that. And we also went on, you know, like camps, out to Pālama-by-the-Sea, at that time, before they moved up to the mountains. So that was during the summer. So then swimming, and we played basketball, Ping-Pong. . . . So we played a variety of activities over there, so it's just not only swimming. But somehow we always played basketball. We had Delmar Gilbert, who played for Farrington. That other fellow, who just passed away. I can't remember his name.

WN: Delmar Gilbert was like an instructor?

DS: He was a basketball player. He was playing at that time. And he was older than me. When I played basketball over there, I learned a lot from the older guys. They needed somebody young to run 'cause they're not gonna run. And they felt that I was interested and so, they took me under their wings. And DePonte was another one there, Norman DePonte . . .

WN: Norman. He just died yeah?

DS: And Sash yeah, Sash, you know, forgot his first name. They all Farrington guys . . .

WN: Soichi?

DS: Yeah, remember him? He was there. But real straight shot. You know, left-handed, it would go in. But I played with all those guys and they're all older than I am. I was the youngest one, and they taught me. They brought me on the team. I would play in the summer leagues with them. I had my ups and my downs and I took losing hard. And because they're experienced, they really helped me to be able to manage the emotions that I would have. I thought I lost the game a lot of times. I would miss the shot at the end of the game, and they would calm me down and talk to me about winning and losing and the values, and stuff like that. So I really learned from them. I had times when we'd practice and I would drive. They're older so they go slower and their tactics little different; they don't move their legs as fast, so they reach and they hit me. And I complained once, "You guys are hitting me. You know, that's a foul." And stuff like that.

So they turn around and told me, "We here to teach you, and if you don't want to learn, then you shouldn't play."

And that got me thinking. I went home and I came back the next day. I wanted to play. I thought about it. And I started playing with them again. I never complained after that. So I knew, if I going get hit, I'd be ready to take it. And that made me stronger as a player mentally and physically. In fact they gave me this one book—and I still remember that—Auerbach's book . . .

WN: Red Auerbach's book.

- DS: Yeah, it was a paperback, about that thick, and about how to play basketball, the fundamentals and everything. And they told me, "Here, take it home. And you read it." And the person who gave it to me was Delmar Gilbert. And so I read it. I don't have it now, but I had it for a long time, and I read it from cover to cover. And so I started knowing little more about basketball. But I was still swimming, too, though. And we had Jeffrey's brother, Larry Yamashita, who was a swimmer turned basketball player.
- WN: That's not the referee, eh?
- DS: That's the ref. That's the referee.
- WN: I didn't know that was the brother . . .
- DS: Yeah, that's the brother . . .
- WN: Oh!
- DS: That's Larry, then there's another younger brother. Oh, what is his name? He's a teacher, out in Kailua area. I'm not sure what school he is at. The name doesn't come back to me right now. . . . Lincoln, Lincoln Yamashita. He was a swimmer. So we started talking about basketball and he said, "Yeah, you know you can go out for basketball if you want to. You know, it depends what you want." And I was kind of torn because Mamizuka was like my mentor. And the other one who got me involved was—see, when I was young, we used to swim, and Farrington [High School swim team] used to train at the Pālama [Settlement] pool. Well, Al Minn was the coach at that time. In fact I just saw him not too long ago at the Hula Bowl over here. Still good friends. We used to train. And what I did was I would train and race against the girls. You know, 'cause I was younger and then the girls were good. But that was my competition. I couldn't compete with the guys. You know, they were good. A lot of the guys I knew went to Farrington, swam. So they swam, practiced over there while I swam with the girls. And if I beat them, it was a challenge for me, and it was a challenge for the girls. And it was fun. I enjoyed that. But that's with the swimming part. They wanted me to swim. And I started getting into basketball a little bit more. I really don't know why. But I just got into that. And that's when I went to McKinley [High School].
- WN: So the swimming program was like a formal, competitive swimming program?
- DS: Yes, oh yes. It was age group.
- WN: But did they also have like how to learn how to swim, too? For little kids or something . . .
- DS: Oh, they did, yeah. They had learning to swim. And you know, I actually learned from my mom, 'cause my mom was an instructor. I learned from her. We went to the natatorium. And I played volleyball, too. My uncle was a volleyball player. At the natatorium they play water volleyball. They had two sides, and real competitive. I started learning from him playing volleyball. Then all my uncles would come down and they'd be playing. And I remember this day. She was in the water and I wanted to swim 'cause I wanted to get in there with her. She said, "Come! Come! Jump in!" And I wasn't about to jump in, I didn't know how to swim! And so my uncle just threw me in. (WN chuckles.) And I just did dog-swim. (WN chuckles.) Of course they wouldn't let me drown. But they were there. And I just made my way to my

mom. And then after that, outside the natatorium, evenings, my uncles would be out there, cousins, and we would be swimming, and we'd play *chase-master*. Of course, I couldn't swim, so I was "it". (WN laughs.) So I would have to touch them, so they would—(loudspeakers audible in background). I think you're going have to stop this for now.

WN: Okay.

(Taping stops, then resumes.)

WN: Okay? Let's continue. You were talking about your swimming and basketball. . . . We're talking about swimming, actually, yeah? You're talking about natatorium . . .

DS: Yeah. That's where I learned how to swim, in the natatorium, when my uncle threw me in the water. [I was] on one of those pontoons. I was standing on there and they threw me from the side, I guess that was the shallow side. (Laughs)

WN: Natatorium?

DS: Yeah.

WN: I didn't know they had a shallow side. (Laughs)

DS: Well, was still deep. But the deeper side was where they jumped off the platforms. But this was like right at the edge, the pontoons they called it. And that's where they had the Keo Nakama swimming meets at that time. Salt water. So he threw me in and I kind of learned how to dog-paddle to her. Then later on we played *chase-master* like that or hide-and-seek kind of thing. You had to touch the other person. And my uncles would come up to me and swim underwater and pop up right in front of me. And I'd be touching the ground and if I want to catch 'em I would swim a little bit . . .

(Laughter)

DS: . . . and try to grab them and they'd swim away! (Laughs) And I would have to swim back again—you know what I mean?—and touch the ground again. And that was the beginning of my swimming. And my mom started instructing me in doing my stroking and kicking, breathing, so that's when I started learning and we started practicing, then I went to Pālama Settlement. Then I learned a little bit more.

When the swimming team learns to swim, they teach you how to kick, you hold on to the wall and do some kicking, all the basics and everything. The breathing, and stuff like that. And that time, they would drain that pool every week on Saturday. And then by Monday, they would start filling it up again. They would clean it up and fill it up with cold, cold water. But it was low. We would have to climb down the ladder and then we'd swim short way [i.e., short length of the pool]. And it was cold. I remember those days. It was cold. But shallow was great. It was fresh water. That was an activity that kept me out of trouble, too, especially the area where I come from. So we did a lot of that swimming. And the thing [water] kept on coming in. And the next day, on Tuesday it was full already. So we started swimming like that.

We started playing waterpolo. Actually it wasn't really waterpolo waterpolo, because we had a basket. It was like water basketball. With waterpolo you got a goalie, this one you got no goalie. And you throw the ball. And if you want to be alive, you let the ball go 'cause they grab you. If you have the ball, as long as you don't let ball go they hold you underwater.

(Laughter)

DS: And you try to struggle, struggle. They just hold you underwater. And soon you let the ball go, then they let you go. That was really gruesome. It was hard because it was tiring. It was good for training, too, for us. You were beat. You swim all the way to the guy, he throws the ball that side. Then you gotta swim that side.

(Laughter)

DS: It was fun. It was one of those things that we learned. We played a lot different kinds of activities, like *chase-master*, the shark. You dive in, underwater they try to grab you, and they hold you, and they catch you, then you're "it". Then you multiply, you get one guy up there, now you get two guys masters now. You there on the opposite side of the pool and you dive in, and they dive in, and you gotta go catch somebody else, so you get two guys now. So they do activities like that, that was clean fun. It was real nice. Mamizuka was there, and Earie was there, and Nelson.

WN: Kawakami, yeah?

DS: Yeah, that's him. Now I remember---now the names are coming. Yeah, Nelson was there. And they were strict. They would tell us, "You gotta do this. You gotta do that." And we would put all the clothes in the baskets and stuff like that, and then we go shower. We just loved to shower. But we wanted to go into the older guys' section 'cause they had the nice hot water.

(Laughter)

DS: They had their own lockers and everything. (Laughs) They'd chase us away every time. But we had to abide by the rules and everything, and regulations: no running, and throw your rubbish away. They were really good in that area as we were growing up. Not that we didn't learn any of it at home, but like it was just reinforced when we were there. Basically we were all good.

WN: So, what encouraged you to go in the first place? Was it, like, your friends going too, from Mayor Wright's, or, you know, were there people who said, "Eh don't go over there, too many rules," and so forth, "Let's just fool around someplace else . . ."

DS: No, actually, my mom was working, and so she said we needed someplace to go after school. And so she took me down there, and looked at the place, and introduced me to the people over there. So I got to go there. Then that's how I met more of my friends there. But it was through her. Because at that time she was working, she didn't want us being home by ourselves—latch-key kind of people. So that [Pāloma Settlement] gave us an out to vent our frustrations, and our energies. So that when you come home, you can do your homework, and stuff like that, or do it before and then go down there. So that was the place where we found refuge. We found socialization. We found activities. We found people who cared that we could

look up to and respect. And they never hit us. They never hit us at all. And in those days they could hit you, but they never hit us, at all. They yelled at us if we did something wrong, and they also praised us. They said good things about us. If you did well, they praised you. We had—I felt—a good foundation, in that area. When they praise you, you want to go back again. So we kept on going. And then, like I said, swimming was a certain time, and we had other times, like during summer, when we started doing other activities.

WN: And were the swim meets with other recreation centers?

DS: Well, you know, it was like, Punahou [Swim Club]. They had a swimming team. And HSC, Hawai'i Swim Club, they would have Coach Soichi Sakamoto. He was teaching at the University [of Hawai'i] at that time. And he had HSC, he was coaching that. And we have Aulea Swim Club. They got a variety of swim clubs around the island. They would hold swimming meets at the various places. Aulea, [we] would swim over there, at Pālana, and we'll be swimming one. It would be Punahou, we'll swim at another one. At the university, we'll swim at meets over there, too. So it was a variety of places we swam. Everybody had their own home training facility.

WN: You swam in age groups?

DS: Yes. Uh huh. I swam in age groups. And then as I got older, I swam against Farrington High School. First I was swimming against the girls. Then as I got better, I started swimming against the boys. But it was a challenge, for me. It was always a challenge (chuckles) going over there and playing the different sports. You always want to win. But I met a lot of different people. Basketball, I met a lot of guys and so I used to play with them. They were always there to help and very positive in their help. And if I needed a scolding they would scold me. They would get on my case. And I basically realized what they were doing. And like anybody, outside, they want to act like they're macho. But inside, they want that discipline. Because nobody going to scold you if they don't care. They care about you, that's why they want to see you do well. They not only scolding you, they're also positive. And if you do something good, they're real positive about those things, too, yeah? Some guys scold you in a positive way. We got a lot of reinforcement.

WN: So you had swimming practice at the same time, you knew when to come, or was it just right after school you come and do what other people are doing?

DS: No. We had a set time. A set schedule, when we swam. And I cannot remember the times we swam, but it wasn't right after school, because the [coaches] worked [other jobs], too. When they were through working then we could start practice. So they wouldn't let us just go and fool around because it's dangerous, the water. So you had Nelson there, and Erie, when they were done working. And the next group would come in and help. Everybody had whatever they had to do, their own thing.

WN: Did they have study hall, too?

DS: At that time---I know they have study halls and stuff like that, now. We had an opportunity to do studies if we wanted to. They have an area—the recreation area—and we could go over there, study. For tutoring they would help us to get better grades. We did have those, that opportunity. And some of 'em took advantage, and some of 'em didn't take advantage of that,

whether they needed it or they didn't need it. But yes, we did.

WN: Mamizuka checked on your grades or anything like that?

DS: Yes, he did. He wanted us to be---he kept on saying, "Don, you know, you have the ability to go to school."

And I said, "Well. . . ." You know, I always thought I wasn't smart enough. You look around at the housing areas, and what are these people doing? They're not doing much. They're all in low-paying, menial jobs. So I thought that was meant for me. I didn't know the world outside. I saw the rich---the Punahou---but you know, eh, they were born in that. That's how I looked at it. I never thought I could amount to much. I thought I was going to be a cannery worker. That's what I thought I was going to be. That was my goal---not my goal---my destiny.

They kept on telling me, "You can be what you want to be. If you work hard enough, you can. And swimming will take you out of it, out of this environment." Nothing wrong with the environment there, but where I was living, the environment is not the best. And basketball. They said I could do that, too. In music, they said I could do that. In art, I could do that. So I had a variety of ways to---a variety of things to do, to get out of that environment. But I always thought I wasn't smart enough. And you know how people say, "hard head," yeah? But they didn't mean it in that sense. So they kept on telling me.

I said, "I'm not smart." But at that time I didn't know my scores. But I was doing well without really trying. I mean, I wasn't getting the A's 'cause I wasn't putting out. I was getting the B's and C's, and I wasn't really putting out. But they kept on telling me I can but I gotta study. So Mamizuka was really important in that area. He mentioned that. And he's not the only one who would mention that. [Lorin] Gill, and a lot of the others, all mentioned that. They kept on saying that I had the ability, the talent to do well.

Tell you how naive I was. I can't remember his name right now. And he was into boxing. In fact, he was one of the boxing commissioners at one time. Short, Japanese guy. I just can't remember his name now.

WN: Ichinose?

DS: I cannot remember. Probably not. There was another one. But he said if I wanted to go to Salt Lake and play basketball, I could go. But this was not playing in a college team, or high school at that time. We had a team that would be going. And I said, "Oh, yeah, Salt Lake, great." 'Cause you know where Salt Lake is in Honolulu. But he wasn't meaning that Salt Lake. He meant Utah.

(Laughter)

DS: Imagine, Utah? I mean, that's a long ways. That's pretty far at that time. I'd never traveled like that. So, Salt Lake [Honolulu], that was kind of far right there. I knew where that Salt Lake was. I said, "Oh, yes!" Finally realizing that it wasn't that Salt Lake I was able to get on the team, like that. But just to illustrate how narrow my mind was at that time. So, he's another one who helped me in seeing different things.

WN: So they [Pālama Settlement] had a formal basketball program like swimming?

DS: My learning basketball over there wasn't like swimming. Swimming, they trained, they competed. In basketball, I didn't do that. I also played football over there, in Pop Warner. Not very long, though. That was the extent until high school when I played one year and that was it. But they had basketball games, and stuff like that. They had some people teach how to play basketball, but it wasn't like training training like swimming. They would have classes, clinics, like that. And I was fortunate. People talked to me about basketball. Some people would come over. I remember this one time, Farrington [High School's basketball team] practiced at our gym, at Pālama gym. Evidently, they didn't have a gym, so they had to come to practice at our gym. Well, they made a big thing out of that, Farrington. They had a good team—Norman DePonte and all those guys—coming in. And so, if you wanted to get in, when you go in to watch practice, they give you a ticket. They give you like a lucky-number ticket. So I got a lucky number, I went to watch. They practice in the clinic. So when I went there, my number was called. So I won. (Chuckles) The prize I won was a basketball. I still remember that. And I treasured the basketball. It was always under my arm, and I brought it in. I think maybe that's why I started (chuckles) going to more basketball games, practices, like that. And winning something, for me, was great! It was outstanding. And so more I wanted to go to basketball; I won something. And it was a big thing. But now, you look at it, well, it's great, but you know. . . . (Laughs) But you can only have so much [momentos] around. I don't know where the ball's at, now, after moving and everything. But the memory's still there in that.

WN: So, like, Norman DePonte those guys, were they formally with Pālama, or was it they just came around and played?

DS: Norman DePonte was more with Farrington, in that area. They wanted me to go to Farrington as a swimmer. They had that L-shaped pool over there. I used to be lifeguard and I used to swim with them all the time. And then they told me the boundary line was moved so I had to go to McKinley [High School]. So a lot of the guys I hung out with, like Mike Harada, Lincoln Yamashita, they went to other schools. Like 'Iolani [High School], and they got scholarships and everything. Some went to Farrington, and I went to McKinley. We had several went to McKinley. And then in high school we'd all swim against each other.

But I first started off playing basketball in high school as a freshman. Well, no, in intermediate school. When I first started intermediate school, I didn't make the team.

WN: Where did you go intermediate?

DS: I went to Central [Intermediate School].

WN: Oh, Central. Okay.

DS: Yeah. Remember I told you that Kawānanakoa [Intermediate School], all those guys were good. And we had some other guys who were good, so they came together. And when I played with them I didn't make the team. I was, like, the number sixteen guy. I got cut.

WN: Were you tall back then?

DS: No. I was under six feet, at that time, yeah. I was kind of---I was one of those late-bloomers, yeah? And I was skinny. And so these guys were playing all the time, playing basketball. I divided my time with a lot of other sports. I was playing the Hi-Y that time. Those days had the Hi-Y at Nu'uuanu YMCA [Young Men's Christian Association]. And I used to play in the league, like that. And I used to go watch [Central team] practices. They used to practice in the outside [court] near Central [Intermediate School]. No gym, so they'd practice outside. I used to watch their practices. And once in a while, they didn't have enough guys, so the coach, which is the PE coach, would ask me if I want to play with them. So I started playing with them a little bit. Then, he picked me up on the team. But then, we had a Hi-Y team that was going for the championship. And that was important to me. And so that day I skipped [Central team] practice. I went to play for that [Hi-Y] team. And we won. But I was cut from the [Central] team because I missed practice. So that was kind of devastating that time 'cause I knew I could play with those guys. And they knew that I could play with those guys, too. But it was one of those things at that time. I started off with the Hi-Y team and I wanted to finish up. We did well.

But after that I made the [McKinley] team, the following year. So I go over there, and I remember Robert Kila. I'm trying out, and he's coming out at me. He makes a fake on me, I fall down. (Chuckles) He goes right by me. This is going out for the JVs. I was so embarrassed. I mean, he was good. Good guard. And he just went right by me. I made the team, though. I didn't play much, but I made the team.

WN: This is what grade?

DS: Ninth grade, no, tenth grade.

WN: Tenth grade?

DS: 'Cause [McKinley] didn't have ninth grade. Ninth grade was Central that time . . .

WN: Oh, right.

DS: And then after that, tenth grade. The following year, I started growing. Of course, I was swimming, too. And so I became, like, six feet in my junior year. So I played those guys. And that's the time they had—he passed away now. . . . On the tip of my tongue, his name. We called him the whale (Earnest Nii). He was really big. He played football. I can't remember his name right now. But anyway . . .

WN: At McKinley?

DS: Yeah, McKinley. He played basketball. He passed away. He was working at Job Corps [Hawaii Job Corps Center], I think, at one time. Real nice guy. Big, but real soft-spoken. And we had a lot of guys, seniors, at that time. I was a junior, so I turned out. And of course, because of my height, the coach was impressed. You know, [grew] all of a sudden. So, we turned out—hey, we talking about, oh, sixty kids turning out for the team at that time. And so, I made the team. Finally, we started playing and that's when we had the twins that played for us at McKinley. Imaikalani Young (and Mike Young). The Young brothers. They were playing. They were good. So I started playing with them. And then, in practice, we used to go to—we didn't have a gym—we went over to the Chinese place [First Chinese Christian

Church] and practiced, across the street.

WN: Oh yeah. Down the street yeah?

DS: Yeah. I started doing real well. Then the coach says, "Oh, you just like a hot potato!" I started shooting well. And we'd play in the Punahou [Invitational] tournament at that time. The preseason. Lot of teams used to be in there. That was the tournament. And so I was doing well. Of course, we had five seniors, right? So that means one senior going to drop out if I going to start. So I finally started. And wasn't very good for that senior, but I didn't look at it like that, I wanted to play. So, as a result, I started playing a lot, and playing well, and doing well. So I went into basketball more. But they still wanted me to go swimming. 'Cause they felt that basketball is not going to take me anywhere. Not going to take me far as far as scholarships is concerned 'cause you have to be big. And I was, like, six-one at that time so it's not real big. So I went out for swimming also. But my heart was in basketball at that time. So I told the coach, "I'll go out for swimming, but I'm not going to be able to make all the practices." Okay.

So he said, "Come on and warm up with me."

So I said, "Okay. I'll go out." And I warmed up. And Mamizuka was the coach. When I dove in, they said, "Well, this is three-quarter speed. 'Cause you're out of shape, just go three-quarter speed." So when I swam that first lap and I was only at three-quarter speed, I did so well, he wanted me just to stick with swimming. Even though I didn't practice, I did real well. Of course I was a sprinter, too, at that time. So it's not like going 500 meters, something like that. I wouldn't make it then.

(Laughter)

DS: So anyway, I did well. So I went out for swimming and I started training a little bit, but it kind of interfered with basketball. (Chuckles) So I was trying to split my time with both of them. I enjoyed the swimming. It was tiring, though. It was different. And so I did both in high school.

WN: Mamizuka was at Pālama Settlement and later he moved to McKinley?

DS: No. He was doing both. He coached football at McKinley, too. And he was the McKinley High coach. You know Larry Oshiro? He's one of the coaches now. I think he was at Aulea [Swim Club]. He was just above me. He was swimming, too. So we had a good swimming team that time.

WN: Let me just turn . . .

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

WN: By the time you went to Central Intermediate, were you pretty much *pau* with Pālama

Settlement?

DS: No. Because I still lived in Mayor Wright's. Yeah. You know, it's something about Mayor Wright's, Warren. I mean, about Pālama Settlement. You never, never get away from it. It's always a part of you. When I went to Central, I used to walk to Central. 'Cause it was close to Mayor Wright's. I walked there. After school, I would start---at that time you met other friends, too, yeah? And I used to go to 'A'ala Park. Play there. And also, Pālama Settlement. So I was still involved with Pālama Settlement and 'A'ala Park. But you know, you just kind of branch out a little more. So I was at Pālama Settlement a lot of times. Still there. And I met other people. No matter where you go, you still connected to Pālama Settlement. One way or the other. And even though I'm on Maui, I'm still connected to Pālama Settlement. In fact, I was wearing this one shirt that when I went to that Pālama Settlement (reunion)—that gathering, the sports one—and I bought this shirt. You know the flying [i.e., winged] P? The maroon and the (white).

WN: The P, yeah.

DS: The flying P, Pālama Settlement. So I was wearing it, over into Costco over here. And this guy came up to me, he said, "You went to Pālama Settlement? I see the shirt."

I said, "Yeah." I said I did.

He said, "Oh!" Then he started talking about Pālama Settlement because of the shirt. And otherwise, he wouldn't have known I went to Palama. And I had no idea who he was. But the connection that helped a lot of people. And it's still helping a lot of people. Even though---I'm not there, other people are utilizing still go back. I look at the trophies. They don't have the old trophies now because there are so many trophies. They told me they put the newer ones there 'cause those are the people looking at it now. But that's where it is. But it was a great organization. It still is a great organization. Of course they've done more now.

WN: You said that you played clarinet?

DS: Yes . . .

WN: Who were---you remember your instructors?

DS: When I was in intermediate school, this guy was sharp. He was sharp. He used to be the Royal Hawaiian Band instructor at one time. And he would start like that, bang! Everybody's playing. You're off one note. Everybody. And he was good. He was strict. And he was the band instructor. So when I was intermediate school, I was taking band lessons from this other---and I cannot remember the fellow's name. Was a real nice man, he was a young guy, kind of a stocky guy. So I think they bring in these kind of people that are positive, yeah? He was real positive. And he tried to get me going further into band. But my other activities just kind of got in the way.

WN: By the time you were high school, you stopped . . .

DS: I had stopped playing. Only in intermediate school I played. Just didn't have enough hours in the day for all of these. So, in fact I couldn't even buy the reed 'cause I didn't have the

money to buy the reed. So they would give me the reed and stuff like that. It didn't cost a lot, but to me it was expensive. But that's when I stopped playing. I still remember those days, though. (WN chuckles.) Clarinet. I used to polish it, fix it all up nice, you know, make it real nice . . .

WN: But wasn't your own, though.

DS: But wasn't my own, no, no. It was the school's. But it was like mine for the time being. So I was able to hold on to it and play. I have an instrument.

WN: When you were at Pālama, did they provide you with the instrument?

DS: Yes. They did. They provided. That's one thing about Pālama, they provide you the instructor, they provided you with the materials, the supplies that you needed.

WN: I'm wondering, too, at Pālama---was it all voluntary? I mean, was there a time when you didn't want to do it, but they would keep pushing you to do it? There were those---there were people that dropped out.

DS: Yeah. Oh, yes. There are people that dropped out for a number of reasons, and I don't know the reasons that they did. See, I was blessed with good health. So I couldn't use being sick as an excuse. And I enjoyed going there. And if I didn't go to a class, I would be doing something else at the Pālama Settlement. That was my home away from home. And I enjoyed going over there because I enjoyed what I could learn, what I could do, meeting the different---the friends and stuff like that. That's our meeting ground. And they're not vicious people. They're good people. The vicious ones are the ones who didn't come over there. They're out doing other things. And I was friends with them, also. But I chose not to hang around with them. I chose the other route. My mother, also, directed me in that route, too. So that I don't get into---she doesn't need problems. We all don't need problems.

WN: What were some of the problems? Like, okay, growing up Mayor Wright's. What were the temptations?

DS: Temptations. . . . Being poor, being on the welfare, that lack of money. So you don't have supplies. You don't have equipment. You don't have the clothes. You steal. So people go out there and go and take things for your needs. I used to go across the street to the store. And I took ice cream. I couldn't afford it. But you know, the guy at the store knew I was taking it. It's not like every day I'd do it. Every once in a while---I thought I was getting away with it at that time. Until my mom said, "Go across the street." And she called the store, tell them that "My son's coming across." She gave me some money, and to buy something for her. And then said, "Oh, do you know my son?"

And so the guy says, "Oh, yes. He comes over and he's the one that steals the ice cream."

(Laughter)

DS: And that's when I knew that he knew. But he never stopped me. He never made any attempt. Because he knew I wasn't taking a lot for everybody, it was for my needs. It's not for survival, but that's the dessert that I don't have. That was a delicacy for me. So I would get

one of those---that Popsicle kind of thing? The Dreamsicle, like that. (WN chuckles.) Yeah, I used to love that. The cream inside. I used to love that. That's what I would get. He let me go on that one, though. Of course, I sort of stopped after that when I found out.

(Laughter)

DS: Maybe I was kind of embarrassed. I was embarrassed to go over there that day. But I guess that taught me a lesson, too, yeah?

WN: Were you---did you consider yourself, typical for a Mayor Wright kid? Or were you atypical because you participated in all these Pālama Settlement . . .

DS: I'd say . . .

WN: Minority or majority?

DS: I'd say an atypical person over there. Because I think basically I had good home values. Like, I was in the JPO [junior police officer] program. The values are there. The responsibility's also there, because I was not only just a buck private, but I was a lieutenant, then I became a captain. So I was in a role of responsibility. And I gotta [set an] example and stuff like that. I was in athletics. I was in PE [physical education]. They have teams, school plays other schools, like that, intermediate schools. I was one of the team members. I was in all these different organizations. Lunch hour, I was always involved. Go out there, and you take your shoes off, and you play. Or if you didn't have shoes, you just go out there and run around and get sweaty, and come to class like that, perspiring. But I was involved in a lot of these activities.

I wasn't involved in academic activities so much, I was more involved in athletic activities, more. Although my mom always stressed academics, also. But she didn't have the time to spend with me on academics. I remember one class I was in, I think it is Mrs. Harbottle's class. And I think it was in like the seventh grade or eighth grade. I was sitting in the back and I was writing. We had taken a test. And this guy next to me was cheating, cheating off of me. I didn't know that. Then I turned it in, she gave me an F. For that class, and for the work. I said I didn't know why. I couldn't understand why she gave me an F. 'Cause I really did my work and I didn't cheat. But he had the same answers as I did. And so she gave us both F's. 'Cause he was looking, and I guess he got caught. And she blamed me, too. That was one incident.

The other incident that came up was like a . . . The answer was, like, 1 million. And I had one, and I had a comma, then I didn't have the last two zeros. Oh, no. I had two zeros, I didn't have the third one. But the commas were basically in the right place all the way to that, until the end. Was only two left. Two zeros. And she said that's wrong. I said, "Wait a minute. I knew the answer was right. If you look at it, basically, just didn't put the last one in."

She said, "No. It's wrong." I learned from those things. She told me why, and everything. At that time, I didn't agree. (Chuckles) But later on I thought about, and she was right. I think if she had let me go, stuff like that, let me slide, if a lot of these other people had let me slide, too, and not kept me on task, things might have been different, yeah.

I'm old-fashioned in my values. And I still believe in it. Things have changed now, and I realize that, and I got to change with the times in order to keep up. But my values are still old-fashioned. And I still believe in hard work. You go out there and you do hard work, and it'll pay off in the end. You be nice to people and people will be nice to you. If you want people to change, you got to change—kind of a thing. Doesn't happen all the time, but majority of the times it does. But you gotta look at yourself first. And that's why I believe in the old-fashioned methods.

WN: You think Pālama Settlement helped you develop these values?

DS: I believe so. Yeah. I believe that they really helped me in a lot of values, with a lot of people saying the same thing. They all had, basically, the same values. Like I said, they never struck me at all. But they always kept harping on me about these values, that I can do it, that I'm smart enough, that I'm good enough, and I have the ability. And they kept on doing that to me, no matter what I did over there. Same thing with the rest of the people we had. They gave us the competition. They gave us the knowledge. They gave us the opportunity to do the best we can. And if we didn't do it, it's nobody's fault but ours. But they didn't let us down. If we fell down, they didn't step on us, and say you're not good. They kept on picking us up. And saying you can do it, you can do it. And I think those kinds of values. . . . Because everybody makes mistakes, and we all make mistakes. And sometimes we pay dearly for it. Other times it's minor mistakes, but we still learn from it. And I was like anybody else, and just like anybody else I made mistakes. And I paid for it, and I learned from it. And, hopefully, I'm a better person for it.

WN: With Pālama Settlement, you know, it was unique in a sense that it was in a poor community and you folks didn't have to pay anything. And you were given these first-class facilities. You think that's a concept that could work elsewhere?

DS: I think so. It was like the magnet that draws people to it. When you see that---it's like a church, right? That draws the people together. Bringing people together. Because otherwise, if they didn't have that, I don't know where I would have gone. I would be with the rest of the guys stealing, robbing different homes, like that. You know, right in my neighborhood, they had shootings. And they never bothered me because I knew them. But then again, if I hung around with them, then things might be a little different, too. I might get into an argument and then they go bother me. I was able to roam the streets. I don't think it's exactly like it is now. Probably was better that time. Now it's probably worse. But I was able to meet different kinds of people. When you meet different people you learn from them, from each other. That was like a rallying point, a place that could bring everybody together. And I think that's why, when they had that hundredth [i.e., Pālama Settlement centennial celebration]---what do you call. . . . Saw all the old-timers back there. Because it gave them something. Taught them something. And it's always gonna be in their hearts.

WN: In the remaining time we have, just tell me briefly what you've been doing since you graduated from high school.

DS: Okay. When I graduated from high school I went into the service. I went into the [U.S.] Navy. And at that time, I was basically a basketball player. I was, I'd say, recruited to play basketball for Sub-Pac in the . . .

WN: Oh, yeah, yeah.

DS: Yeah. So I played for Sub-Pac. And I played for couple years. And I was able to play against all these college players. And play with Bob Gaillard from University of San Francisco. Played with him. Played with Brian Kaniff. He played for the U.C. [University of California]. I played Jackson, this guy Jackson, I cannot remember his name. Played with a lot of these guys—all college players. Ex-college players. And so they were helping me. Another coach for Sub-Pac—man, I can't remember his name right now [Kiyoshi "Knuckles" Matsuo]. And he had his nickname. And he's still living. He was at Pālama Settlement, too, helping. He's out Pearl City area, he lives out there. He had a real unusual nickname. But anyway, he was local, Japanese. And he helped me. He was the coach. One of the secretaries over there—was a male—could type two-fingers. And that's how he learned. And he was fast. He's the fastest two-finger typist I've ever seen. And he was there in the office, so I was able to see them, the gym and everything. Then I got to meet the Admiral, Admiral Clary, that time. He was a staunch supporter of basketball. And we used to play in the Bloch Arena and everything. The rivalry between the different—what do you call—armed forces, was great in basketball. I mean, it was Admiral to Admiral, or Admiral to General. They're out there, they want their team to win. And so we're playing the air force, we're playing the—well, we're Sub-Pac, then they have Serve-Pac, then got the army, get all the army teams . . .

WN: Marines.

DS: Yeah, and the marines. And they were tough teams at that time. And that's when that basketball tournament started . . .

WN: Rainbow Classic?

DS: Rainbow Classic. They started with them. Everybody who's a winner would go in. We were all fighting. And there was great competition. And so I learned, and I matured more by being in there. And I was able to travel to make the all-navy team. 'Cause we won the (All-Pacific) district. And that extends all the way to Guam and everything. And so we go, and we play. And I made the all-service team, and we go in the all-service team. And I had the opportunity to play with Hal Fisher, who was a great coach with the army at that time, and he taught me more things. I was ready to go play in the Olympics, and then I came down with an injury. And I remember him saying that I would be able to, maybe not make the Olympics, but I had the opportunity to play [i.e. try out] to make it. Because of the injury I didn't go. I was in New York at that time. So, I didn't play. At that time they were taking different teams, and from that all-star teams, then they select for the Olympic team. We were one of it, but I didn't go on that one.

And then after that I went into college. I got a scholarship at the University of San Francisco. Got a four-year scholarship there. So I went to school there. I played ball, I was captain the last two years. And I won a few awards there. Got my education which at that point was starting to become (chuckles) important, real important to me. I started to understand---not that athletics didn't take an important part, but that was a means of getting an education. And so I stuck with basketball that time because that's what's the road that's giving me that opportunity. Because I got a University of San Francisco full scholarship, I couldn't turn that down. My parents couldn't afford it. So I took that. Then after that, I was recruited to play in the NBA [National Basketball Association] and ABA [American Basketball Association]. That

time they had the two leagues. Oakland had one team, then Rick Barry came in. They had Indiana Pacers at that time, and the New York Nets. I also was recruited for play football by the Dallas Cowboys. They came up and they wanted me to play defensive back. Then I got this offer to go to Europe and play basketball in Europe. The guy came over and recruited me, so I took the offer to go to Europe and play. I turned down the other offers. And I don't regret it. But after that, after I played in Europe, then I came back to University of San Francisco. They asked me if wanted to come back go for my master's [degree]. And also coach at the freshman level at that time with Bob Gaillard. 'Cause I knew Gaillard at that time—he was coaching at that time. And Pete Peleta was there at that time. So they gave me a scholarship like that, so it paid my way through there. But I got married before I went to Europe. 'Cause otherwise my girlfriend, at that time, would not be able to go. And I couldn't afford to take her at that time. So we got married and we went there, and then we came back. Then after I graduated from there, I came to Maui for a vacation.

WN: When is this, about? You graduated from San Francisco when?

DS: [Nineteen] sixty-eight.

WN: [Nineteen] sixty-eight. That's your B.A. [bachelor of arts degree] or your master's?

DS: That was my B.A. 'Cause I was there from '64 to '68. Although I graduated from high school in '61. But I was in the service after that. And then I went to. . . . Where was I now?

WN: Maui.

DS: Yeah. Came to Maui for a vacation and I liked it. Of course, what am I going to do now?

(Laughter)

DS: Do I go back to Europe and play? Time is going already. I'm older. Or do I settle down and get a job? 'Cause my wife at that time was from Maui. Her family's here. They would like to see us stay. Of course my son was born in Europe, so, we brought him home. So we decided to stay. And now, what am I going to do? So I tried to apply for a job. I only applied for two jobs. (Chuckles) I don't know, maybe I really didn't want to (laughs) go to work.

(Laughter)

DS: I wasn't ready to settle down at work. I mean, I enjoyed playing. It's like playing all this time, and all of sudden, I got to work? (Chuckles) Well, I got to get a living. So I applied for the bank. And it's amazing. A friend of mine in college, he's from Maui. I met him there. So he's working at the bank. I don't know how much he's making at that time. So when I applied, I met the president of the bank, at that time, Bank of Hawai'i. And he told me, of course, "What do you expect for a salary?" Well I put down—forgot what I put down, but was higher than what he was making.

(Laughter)

DS: He said okay, then he turn around, he said, "This library, all these books, you're going to have to know all of that for the banking industry." He said, "Well, do you think you can do that?"

I said, "Well, I'm pretty sure I can."

"So I tell you what. You go home. You think about it. I'll give you a call." Then the other one I applied for was teaching. I went up there and I applied. I interviewed.

WN: Where? Here?

DS: The [Maui] district. I applied at the [Maui] district [office], and they said, "Okay. We will let you know," and everything if there's an opening and stuff like that. So I come home. In a couple days, I get a call from the DOE. I said, oh, okay. So I went to interview at Lahainaluna [High School] at that time. That's where the job was. They had an opening at Lahainaluna. And this was like in August.

WN: August of '68?

DS: No, no. I think it was 1970. 'Cause '70-'71 the school year. I go and apply over there and I interviewed. I got hired right on the spot. Ralph Murakami was the principal at that time. He's now the district superintendent. So he hires me. Of course, I'm used to the Mainland style, coat and tie. I go there—Lahaina now—(laughs) hot, hot, hot. That's what I was used to. So I went there and I got hired. So I come home, I get a call from the bank. "We'll hire you, just come right down now." The phone was one day too late. They really wanted me. And this was the highest paid salary they would give somebody coming in like this. They accepted it. And I told him what my experiences were, it wasn't all that much.

WN: What was your B.A. in?

DS: In business. So it goes along with that.

WN: And did you get your master's?

DS: No, I got my teaching certificate. I ended up with a teacher's certificate at USF. In fact, for my practice teaching, I went down to this ghetto school. I had a choice, now. You take this ghetto school, or do you want this plush, real exclusive, like Seabury kind of school, in that area, at Reardon. I said, "If I went over there, everything would be a snap." Real easy, right? That's with a master teacher. Then when I get a job, what are the chances of me getting that school? Not very good. Everybody wants to go to that school. But you can go student teach. So I said, well, if I go to this [other] school, this is like, all Blacks and Chicanos. And it's close, too. Polytechnic. They closed it down already. So I went in there. I went to that school, and I said that's the one I wanted to go to. I wanted to learn. I said, eh, if I'm going to survive, I can survive any place I go, if I'm going to that school. If I fail, well, I can still survive another school, but maybe it's not my profession. So I went to that school, of course all Blacks. My master teacher is Black. Well, few White teachers.

(DS is paged. Taping stops, then resumes.)

DS: Anyway, my master teacher asked me if I wanted to play basketball, the faculty against the team. I said, oh sure. So I went in there, they tell me the time and everything. I walked inside with him, I was the only White guy. And I mean, I was Brown, but I was the only White guy. Compared to them I was real. . . . Everybody was Black. All the team members was Black.

And so, as a result, I got a lot of respect. In front of all the Blacks. I mean, I just played basketball and I did well. And I got all the respect. And so when I walked down the corridor, I walked down in the front of the school, teachers and everything—and that school was little bad. I had prostitutes and stuff like that in my classes. I had all the respect. Usually got these big gals there. Eh, when they walk down there, you walk away. The White teachers all went to the side of the curb. I never felt that way. I don't know what prejudice is. In Hawai'i, everybody's together. So I walked to the front. Nobody else walked down, I was the only one who walked in the front, the [only] White person walking in front in the school. And they always gave me room. So I think that experience really helped me.

And I was able to survive those classes, with all the kind of problems that these kids had. See, every time when I'm coaching, I always tell them, "I coach you. I expect you to go out and teach ten other people. Then you fulfilled the obligation." And that's what I felt. If I was coached, I said, "Now I'm going to go out and teach ten" Of course, that never happens. It always happens you going teach more than ten. But at least the minimum ten. That's how you can give back. That's the kind of appreciation I feel that everybody should have. I tell my players all that.

Anyway. I came back to Lahainaluna and I got the coaching job there. Teaching and coaching. And then from Lahainaluna, after I was done with that, I moved over to Maui High. I started teaching and coaching at Maui High. And then in 1988 I became the athletic director.

WN: So when did you start Maui High?

DS: In 1981. I transferred to Maui High.

WN: You coached up until '88?

DS: Yes. To '88 I coached. And I became the athletic director. They said we cannot coach anymore, being athletic directors. But just recently they said that. Prior to that, it was up to [the principal]. Every school is different. My principal said, "I don't want you to coach. I want you to be able to take care of all the sports." And that means attend practices, attend games, like that. Whereas basketball, if I'm in practice, I cannot see the [other] games, I cannot be there. So he wanted me to do that. After he left, then this other rule came in; in public schools, you cannot coach [and be athletic director]. So I haven't been coaching, and I been just taking care of the teams and everything.

WN: You miss coaching?

DS: At times I do, you know. But see, coaching has taken me away from Christmases, like that, the holidays. I never really had a chance to enjoy Decembers because of coaching. You got to practice. Whereas, now I have that freedom. Well, I still got to be here 'cause now we're full time, all year-round, twelve-month employees. Before we weren't. Now we're, like, the administrators. Not that all administrators have the twelve-month [schedule]. Principals don't have it, vice-principals, but we do. And so, I miss coaching when I watch, and I watch practices. But I've learned to overcome it, and I talk to the kids about it. I see them doing something wrong, I pull them on the side. I talk to them. You should try this. You should try this, like that. And I talk to the coach. I talk to him about different things, but I don't try to influence him in anything. That's his team. And we hire the coach to coach. But if they're

doing something wrong, then I need to step in. But they don't normally do anything---they usually ask if this is okay. But I do help them, I see them, I go to the games. Not only basketball, but others. But my love is basketball. And I'm also in charge of swimming. I'm the coordinator of swimming on Maui. Swimming, and golf, not that I'm a great golfer (WN chuckles), but I'm fortunate. I'm real fortunate that I have good coaches. I have good people. I got a great staff over here in Maui High. The principal all down to secretaries, to custodians. I'm also in charge of the custodians over here. (Chuckles)

WN: The whole school? Custodians?

DS: Yeah, yeah. The whole school. I think I'm the only A.D. that's in charge of the custodians. 'Cause I talk to the DAGS [state Department of Accounting and General Services] and they said, "How come you in charge of that? You the only one."

I said, "Well, the principal said I should have it. So I just take it." We just try to do the best we can. The room cleaners, I'm in charge of. So that means I'm in charge of all the facilities. So I go and talk to them. I make the arrangements, they come down and check with me about facilities, and everything. I enjoy working with them. When I ask them to come in, like say, half an hour earlier, they willing to do that. An hour earlier, they willing to do that. Because [if] we have a big activity like the Hula Bowl, they practice over here for four days. And so, I have to have all the people come in and they going to clean up, and everything. Hey, they're willing to do that. 'Cause I have a good working relationship with them, and the office, you got to have that. When we do something like when we work at the football games, like that, as an example, basketball games, we need volunteers to collect tickets, and sell tickets. I ask them. Majority of them say okay. So they willing to help out for the program. And this is all volunteer.

WN: Well, I think you've done a good job in connecting your current situation to Pālama Settlement. Before I turn off the tape, is there any last things you want to say? About your life? About Pālama Settlement? Whatever?

DS: Well, I feel that I was very fortunate to be associated with Pālama Settlement and all the good people that came through Pālama Settlement. And the ones who are even now going through Pālama Settlement. There's always a connection, like I said, with the shirt, and everything. Because they know what came out of it. When I see other people, the youth, like that, they have these opportunities. Whether it's Pālama Settlement, it's just another name. Another location. I'm really happy for them. Because if it wasn't for that, I wouldn't be here in this job. I worked at the [pineapple] cannery twelve hours a day, Monday to Saturday. They wanted me to work on Sundays. I was too tired. So I said, no. Sunday, I needed a break. And I thought about it for myself. I said, "Is this what I want to do the rest of my life?" The job was set for me. I could keep the job. And I said, no, that's not what I want. Maybe for some people, but not for me. So that's what it gave me, that opportunity. That's what I really appreciate of all the people who helped me and connected with Pālama Settlement. And those who weren't connected with Pālama Settlement.

WN: Okay. Thank you very much.

END OF INTERVIEW

Reflections of Pālama Settlement

Volume I

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